



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2021

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

Department of Planning and Development
(DPD) 312.744.9267

Property Tax Incentive Will Support 1,000-Job Call Center

The adaptive re-use of a vacant Chatham department store as a 1,000-job Discover customer care center will be made possible by a property tax incentive introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot.

The Class 7(b) property tax incentive will support DL3 Chatham LLC's acquisition and renovation of a 127,000-square-foot, former Target store as a customer care center for Discover Financial Services. The \$45 million project will employ customer service agents starting at \$17 per hour.

The Cook County Class 7(b) tax incentive lowers property taxes for 12 years on qualified commercial development projects. The incentive will reduce property taxes on the site by approximately \$2.48 million over the next 12 years.

The call center, which will include about 5,000 square feet of space for community use, is expected to be fully operational by the end of this year. The building has been vacant for two years.

###

TIF Approved for Park Improvements Across North, Northwest and South Sides

More than \$18 million in facility improvements for nine Chicago parks will be made possible through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposals introduced to City Council today by Mayor Lori Lightfoot.



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



The financing will help the Chicago Park District to make upgrades that reinforce the parks' collective roles as community anchors.

- Garfield Park, at 100 N. Central Park Ave. in the East Garfield Park n, will be allocated \$8.9 million in TIF to support auditorium interior renovations, electrical upgrades, and roofing and drainage improvements. Additional work will include ballfield and garden enhancements and upgrades that help the park's former powerhouse and horse stable to serve as a welcome center and gallery space. Project costs will be entirely funded with TIF.
- Douglass Park, at 1401 S. Sacramento Drive in North Lawndale, will be allocated \$600,000 in TIF for field house renovations, auditorium electrical improvements, and handicapped accessible upgrades. The cost of the project will be entirely funded with TIF.
- Jessie Owners Park, at 8800 S. Clyde Ave. in Calumet Heights, will be allocated \$300,000 for pathway paving, lighting, and seating upgrades. The cost of the project will be entirely funded with TIF.
- Kiwanis Park, at 3315 W. Carmen Ave. in the North Park community, will be allocated \$800,000 in TIF to stabilize the shoreline of the North Branch of the Chicago River, to remove invasive species and restore natural habitat, and to create a multi-use trail. The project, adjacent to the Von Steuben High School campus, will be entirely funded with TIF.
- Legion Park, at 5501 N. Kedzie Ave. in the North Park community, will be allocated \$2 million in TIF to stabilize the shoreline of the North Branch of the Chicago River, to remove invasive species and restore natural habitat, and to create a multi-use trail. The project, adjacent to the Northside College Prep campus, will be entirely funded with TIF.
- River Park, at 5100 N. Francisco Ave. in Lincoln Square, will be allocated \$750,000 in TIF to support park boathouse improvements. The upgrades will enhance boat storage and water access for Park District paddling program participants. Project costs will be entirely funded with TIF.
- Ronan Park, at 3000 W. Argyle St. in Lincoln Square, will be allocated \$3.5 million for community garden improvements, a new riverfront plaza, a new performance pavilion, and related landscape improvements. The cost of the project will be entirely funded with TIF.
- Park 594, a planned pocket park at 3159 S. Halsted in Bridgeport, will be allocated \$350,000 in TIF for fencing, paving, seating, lighting, a drinking fountain and landscaping. The cost of the project will be entirely funded with TIF.



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



###

Former Morton Salt Industrial Complex Approved for Landmark Designation

West Town's former Morton Salt warehouse complex along the North Branch of the Chicago River will be designated as an official City of Chicago Landmark under a proposal submitted to City Council today.

Designed by the Chicago architecture firm Graham, Anderson, Probst & White and completed in 1930, the 4.24-acre complex at 1357 N. Elston Ave. was used by the Morton Salt Co. for the storage, packaging, and distribution of rock salt until 2015.

Featuring a truss-roofed West Shed Building that has long been one of the community's most visible structures, the brick and steel-frame complex is considered an excellent example of utilitarian, early 20th-century industrial architecture. The designation will protect all exterior elevations from demolition or alteration; the interior of the West Shed; painted signage on the roof of the shed; and select structural steel remnants of its former industrial use.

The designation was recommended by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in April 2020.

The complex is currently undergoing a \$50 million renovation by Blue Star properties and R2 as an entertainment facility.

###